

What is claimed is:

1. A method for re-establishing an IP protocol call signaling channel,
comprising:
establishing a first call signaling channel between a first communication endpoint
and a first gatekeeper;
5 in response to losing said established first call signaling channel, sending a keep
alive message to a second gatekeeper; and
in response to receiving a registration confirmation message from said second
gatekeeper, establishing a second call signaling channel with said second gatekeeper.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said keep alive message comprises a
lightweight registration request.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of sending keep alive message
to an alternate gatekeeper in response to losing said established first call signaling
channel comprises sending keep alive message to a plurality of alternate gatekeepers, and
wherein said step of establishing a call signaling channel comprises establishing a call
5 signaling channel with a one of said alternate gatekeepers.
4. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
in response to receiving no registration confirmation message from said alternate
gatekeeper within a first time period, re-registering with a gatekeeper.

5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising establishing a bearer channel between said first communication endpoint and a second communication endpoint, wherein said call signaling channel carries data related to at least one of control of and features associated with data transferred between said first and second communication endpoints by said bearer channel.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said communication endpoint comprises a telephony device.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said call signaling channel is established according to an ITU-T H.323 protocol.

8. A communication system, comprising:
- a first communication endpoint, operable to at least one of receive data from and provide data to an Internet protocol network;
 - a first gatekeeper, operable to control aspects of operation of a communication endpoint in communication with said first gatekeeper;
 - a first communication link between said first communication endpoint and said first gatekeeper;
 - a second gatekeeper, operable to control aspects of operation of a communication endpoint in communication with said second gatekeeper; and
 - a second communication link between said first communication endpoint and said second communication gatekeeper, wherein said second communication link is established after said first communication link is lost and after an exchange of a lightweight RRQ message and an RCF message between said first communication endpoint and said second communication gatekeeper.
9. The system of Claim 8, further comprising:
- a second communication endpoint; and
 - a third communication link, wherein said third communication link is established between said first and second communication endpoints.
10. The system of Claim 8, wherein said first communication endpoint comprises a telephony device.

11. The system of Claim 10, wherein said telephony device comprises at least one of an IP telephone, a soft telephone, a videophone, and a soft videophone.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein said first communication endpoint comprises a gateway.

13. The system of Claim 8, wherein said first communication endpoint comprises a first gateway and at least a first telephony device interconnected to said gateway.

14. The system of Claim 8, wherein said first communication endpoint comprises memory operable to store an address of said second communication gatekeeper.

15. A computational component for performing a method, the method comprising:

registering an endpoint with a first gateway, wherein a first signaling link is established between said endpoint and said first gateway; and

5 in response to a loss of said first signaling link, sending a lightweight registration request (RRQ) message to a second gateway.

16. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

in response to receiving a registration confirmation message from said second gateway, establishing a second signaling link between said endpoint and said second gateway.

17. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

in response to receiving a registration rejection message, sending a lightweight RRQ message to a third gateway.

18. The method of Claim 15, further comprising:

sending a lightweight RRQ message to a third gateway.

19. The method of Claim 15, wherein said computational component

comprises a computer-readable storage medium containing instructions for performing the method.

20. The method of Claim 15, wherein said computational component comprises a logic circuit.

21. A communication system endpoint, comprising:

means for communicating with means for controlling aspects of an exchange of data between said communication system endpoint and a second communication system endpoint;

5 means for generating a lightweight RRQ message in response to a loss of a communication link between said means for communicating and said means for controlling; and

means for interconnecting said at least a first communication endpoint means and said means for controlling.

22. The communication system endpoint of Claim 21, further comprising:

means for storing a list of alternate means for controlling, wherein said means for generating addresses said lightweight RRQ message to a one of said alternate means for controlling.

23. The communication system of Claim 21, further comprising:

means for storing a list of alternate means for controlling, wherein said means for generating addresses a lightweight RRQ message to a plurality of said alternate means for controlling.